Comprehensive Family Support Programs



Purpose

The purpose of the Comprehensive Family Support programs – Family Support Subsidy (FSS) program and Children at Home (CAH) program – is to assist families of children with developmental disabilities to meet the special needs of their disabled children.

Who Is Helped

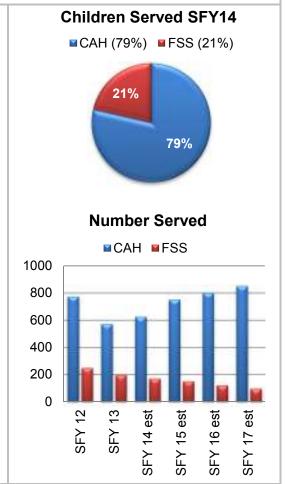
Both programs serve families of disabled children. Eligibility and availability are different.

Family Support Subsidy (FSS)

- Child under age 18 who lives at home with a developmental disability which results in substantial functional limitation in three or more areas of major life activity.
- Families with income below \$40,000 (adjusted gross income).
- Available statewide until state legislation ended new enrollment effective January 2010.
- A monthly average of 170 children received FSS in SFY14.

Children at Home (CAH)

- Person under 21 with a disability who lives at home or has a discharge plan to return home within 60 calendar days.
- Families with income below \$60,000 (adjusted gross income).
- Currently available in 23 counties. Services are expanded to additional counties based on available funding.



✓ About half of the families served through the Family Support Subsidy have household income of less than \$20,000/year.

Services

Family Support Subsidy (FSS)

- Provides a monthly payment to families of \$292 for SFY15. Is used to support the family in keeping their child at home.
- Program will continue until last child turns 18 (approximately 2024).

Children at Home (CAH)

 Provides funds for a particular need as they arise. Examples include adaptive equipment, special clothing, counseling, parent training, and respite.

Goals & Strategies

FSS Goal: Provide families with financial support to help keep their children with disabilities at home.

FSS Strategy:

 Continue to provide family support subisdy funding to families currently enrolled until the child's 18th birthday. As children leave the FSS program and the need for funds decreases, DHS proposes to move funds into the Children at Home program to expand the number of counties where this service is available.

CAH Goal: Gradually expand the program. CAH Strategy:

 The department proposes to continue using FSS dollars saved to expand CAH services to unserved counties. Savings from children who exited FSS in SFY14 and SFY15 are already being used to expand CAH services to additional parts of the state.

Results in SFY14:

 Overwhelming percentages of parents in both groups say they are satisfied with the programs and that they assist in keeping their children at home.

Cost of Services

- The annual cost per child receiving Family Support Subsidy services for the full 12 months in SFY14 was \$3,420.
- The average annual cost per child of providing Children at Home services in SFY14 was \$453.
- ✓ The amount allotted for administration costs (at state level) was set at \$25,000 by the legislature in 1988. There has been no change since that time.

Funding Sources

The Comprehensive Family Support programs are funded exclusively by state dollars.

Total funding in SFY16 is \$1,073,932.

- \$432,432 Family Support Subsidy (FSS)
- \$641,500 Children at Home (CAH)

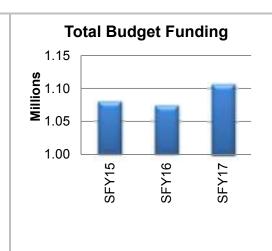
SFY16 & SFY17 Budget Drivers

The total SFY16 FSS and CAH budget request reflects a \$5,807 (0.5 percent) general fund decrease from the SFY15 Enacted Appropriation.

- Funding for the FSS program is gradually decreasing since there are no new enrollees.
- This budget assumes savings from FSS will be used to expand CAH.

The total SFY17 FSS and CAH budget request reflects a \$7,176 (0.7 percent) general fund decrease from the SFY15 Enacted Appropriation.

- FSS savings in SFY16 and SFY17 will fund further expansion of CAH services.
- Carryforward of unspent FSS and CAH funds from prior years will also be used in SFY17 to expand CAH services.



Legal Basis

State:

lowa Code, Chapters 225C.35-42 & 225C.47-49